

The Three Signs

By Mansoor Ali Shah
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدُ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

Mansoor: Baba, my friend Ahmed said he would bring his new toy car to school today, but he didn't. He promised!

Baba: Oh, Mansoor. Did he forget, or did he break his promise on purpose?

Mansoor: He said he left it at home, but later I heard him tell another friend that he never wanted to bring it at all.

Baba: That is not good, my son. Keeping a promise is very important in Islam. Do you know what our beloved Prophet ﷺ said about this?

Mansoor: No, Baba. What did he say?

Baba: The Prophet ﷺ said, "The signs of a hypocrite are three: When he speaks, he tells a lie. When he promises, he breaks it. And when he is trusted, he is dishonest." (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith #33)

Mansoor: Oh no, Baba! Does that mean Ahmed is a hypocrite?

Baba: Not necessarily, my dear. Sometimes, children forget or make mistakes. But if someone always lies, breaks promises, and is dishonest, then they have the qualities of hypocrisy. And hypocrisy is a very serious thing.

Mansoor: What should I do, Baba? Should I stop being his friend?

Baba: No, my son. Instead, remind him kindly. If he is your friend, he will listen to you. Tell him how important it is to be truthful and to keep promises. Maybe he didn't realize his mistake.

Mansoor: That's a good idea! I will talk to him tomorrow. But Baba, what if he keeps breaking promises?

Baba: Then you should be careful. A good friend is someone who is honest and trustworthy. The Prophet ﷺ always spoke the truth, even before he became a prophet. That is why people called him Al-Sadiq (the truthful) and Al-Ameen (the trustworthy). We should try to be like him.

Mansoor: I want to be like the Prophet ﷺ, Baba! I will always tell the truth and keep my promises.

Baba: That's my boy! And remember, Allah loves those who are truthful and trustworthy.

Mansoor: InshaAllah, Baba! I will start by reminding Ahmed tomorrow.

Baba: That's the spirit, Mansoor. May Allah always guide you to the right path.

Mansoor: Ameen!